

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please amend claim 1, cancel claims 6-38 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 39-45.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating myocardial infarction comprising:  
administering to a subject in need of such treatment an Akt molecule in an amount effective to inhibit cardiac tissue necrosis in the subject, wherein the Akt molecule is an Akt nucleic acid.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiomyocyte.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiac tissue endothelial cell.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt molecule is administered acutely.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the Akt molecule is administered acutely into the apical and anterolateral free wall of the heart.
- 6-38. (canceled)

39. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the Akt nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

40. (new) A method for treating myocardial infarction comprising:  
administering to a subject in need of such treatment an Akt molecule in an amount effective to inhibit cardiac tissue necrosis in the subject, wherein the Akt molecule is an Akt polypeptide.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiomyocyte.

42. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the cardiac tissue necrosis is mediated by increased apoptotic cell-death of a cardiac tissue endothelial cell.

43. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein the Akt molecule is administered acutely.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein the Akt molecule is administered acutely into the apical and anterolateral free wall of the heart.

45. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the Akt polypeptide is a polypeptide or fragment thereof encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and wherein said polypeptide or fragment thereof maintains serine threonine kinase activity and/or is capable of inhibiting apoptotic cell death.